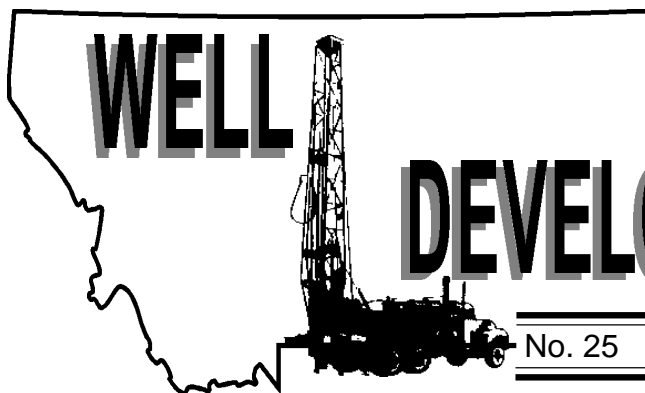


WELL DEVELOPMENTS



BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Bergantino, MBMG Member
Pat Byrne, Industry Member
Kevin Haggerty, Industry Member
Eric Regensburger, DEQ Member
Laurence Siroky, DNRC Member

No. 25

Board of Water Well Contractors

October 2000

TESTING WELL WATER — SAFE OR UNSAFE?

Drinking water lab analysts run tests for a select group of organisms called “total coliforms.” *E. coli* is a bacteria that is present in feces from humans and animals. Although *E. coli* is an important member of the total coliform group of bacteria, it is usually not present in the average test.

When a well owner decides to have his well water tested, he usually takes the samples himself and delivers them to the County Health Department or the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) laboratory. For decades the state laboratory has routinely tested water samples for total coliforms. What the test tells is this. If a total coliform test shows the presence of coliform bacteria in a drinking water sample, then the water supply sample has somehow been compromised. It tells the well owner that he needs to investigate and do further testing. It does not tell for sure that the well has been contaminated by disease causing organisms, or whether *E. coli* of fecal origin is present. But it does indicate

that something is in the water or sample that should not be there.

Any tests that are “positive” for total coliform should be considered “unsafe.” The water well contractor needs to advise his customer that the first step in correcting this problem is to re-sample, being sure to use a clean sampling procedure. The second step is to have the laboratory determine whether the *E. coli* strains are of fecal origin or disease causing organisms. Often the well can be disinfected with chlorine or a chlorine filter system can be

installed. There are other methods of cleaning up specific bacteria that are usually recommended by the health authority after sufficient lab tests are completed.

So, just because a routine lab test shows the presence of total coliforms and “unsafe” is designated on the report, it does not mean that all is lost. It means that a red flag is raised, and the well owner needs to work with the lab analyst and the water well contractor to begin to fix the problem.□

PROGRESS ON GPS SYSTEMS FOR WELL LOGS

The Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) has developed a web site, called “Topo Finder.” This site allows you to enter latitude and longitude data from your global positioning system (GPS) tool onto a quadrangle map and retrieve section, township, and range from the quad map. It allows you to bring up on the screen any quad map in which you are interested. This is a new

system that will have a variety of uses for state government and for water well contractors who are on the Internet. The system is not developed specifically to convert latitude and longitude to section, township, and range, but it has promise to assist in properly locating wells accurately. The web site is:

<http://nris.state.mt.us/topofinder.html>.□

BOARD CONSIDERS FEE INCREASES

The Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC) reviewed the fee history of the licensing program during the September meeting. Laurence Siroky, board representative from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), presented a history of income and expenses associated with the program over the last 10 years. The program has not had a fee increase during the last 13 years. Over the last five years, income from renewal fees and application fees has decreased, and expenses from all areas of the program have

dramatically increased. The board reviewed expenses and concluded that the program is operated as efficiently as possible. There have been increases in travel and per diem costs as well as incremental salary raises during the last 13 years. All other areas of expenses, such as phone, postage, printing, and office materials, have gradually outpaced the budget.

The board voted unanimously to proceed with the administrative rule making process with the proposed fee in-

creases as presented to the board. The driller board members will take the proposed increases to their membership.

The proposed fees would increase water well contractor and monitoring well constructor license renewals from \$140 to \$250. The increase is that amount necessary to meet the current expenses and provide some insulation against additional fee increases for an estimated six to eight years. Following is a list of the proposed changes.□

36.21.415 FEE SCHEDULE

(1)	Application and examination		
(a)	Contractors	275.00	300.00
(b)	Drillers	165.00	250.00
(c)	Monitoring well constructor	165.00	300.00
(2)	Re-examination		
(a)	Water well contractor	125.00	150.00
(b)	Water well driller	75.00	125.00
(c)	Monitoring well constructor	75.00	150.00
(3)	Renewal		
(a)	Contractor	140.00	250.00
(b)	Driller	90.00	150.00
(c)	Monitoring well constructor	140.00	250.00
(d)	Contractor/monitoring well constructor		300.00
(e)	Monitoring well constructor/water well driller		300.00
(f)	Renewal - inactive (all licenses)		250.00
(4)	Late renewal (in addition to renewal fee) will be for any license not renewed prior to July 10	55.00	75.00
(5)	Duplicate certificate and/or license	40.00	50.00
(6)	Change in contractor name and/or address	40.00	
(7)	Change in responsible contractor (new driller license fee)	40.00	
(8 6)	Copies of law and rules--per page book (drillers and contractors are exempt from fee)	.20	5.00
(9 7)	Exemption permits - a fee may be charged for travel expenses incurred in reviewing an application for an exemption permit. The fee shall be estimated and based on current state travel and per diem reimbursement schedules.		100.00
(8)	Construction standard variance - inspection/follow-up		100.00

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Montana Environmental Training Center

Communication Skills

November 1, 2000
MSU-Great Falls Campus
2100 16th Ave South, Great Falls, Mont.

Understanding Ground Water & Contamination

November 9, 2000
Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant
2001 Airport Road, Kalispell, Mont.

The BWWC approved the above Montana Environmental Training Center (METC) classes for the fall continuing education schedule. Most training schools put on by suppliers and manufacturers begin in the spring of the year. Contact your supplier for upcoming schedules. □

National Ground Water Association Annual Convention and Trade Show

Date: December 13 - 16, 2000
Location: Las Vegas, Nevada
Contact: NGWA
Address: 601 Dempsey Road
Westerville, OH 43081
Phone: (800) 551-7379
Fax: (615) 898-7786

Montana Water Well Drillers Association Convention

Date: February 7 - 9, 2001
Location: Helena, Montana
Contact: MWWDA
Address: 602 West Second Street
Hardin, MT 59034
Phone: (406) 665-3304

NEW BOOKLET

The BWWC just revised the booklet, *Water Well Drilling for the Prospective Well Owner*.

This publication covers such topics as:

- How much water to you need
- How to select your water well contractor
- Well location, having your water tested
- Maintaining your well
- Do's and don'ts of having a water well drilled

You can pick up the booklet at the BWWC office or any of the DNRC regional offices. It is also on the DNRC website. □

DRY HOLE WELL LOG REPORT

The BWWC has noticed that licensees are not filing well log reports on dry holes. According to ARM 36.21.679 (2), on page 27 of the rule book, "*water well log report must be completed and filed with each dry hole, within 60 days after moving the drilling equipment from the drilling site.*" The rule also provides that dry or inadequate wells must either be constructed as though they were producing wells, with proper sealing procedures followed, or else be properly abandoned.

The information included in the well log report not only benefits the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG)

database, but it also helps the licensee. Knowing the number of dry holes and their depth in a given area can be as helpful as knowing the number and depth of producing wells. □

NEW LICENSEES

Water Well Contractors

Gerald Hauser	Helena, Mont.
Roy Lewis, Jr.	Livingston, Mont.
Ryan Lindsay	Clancy, Mont.
Ross Purviance	Libby, Mont.

Water Well Drillers

Chad Danielson	Kila, Mont.
Jeff Glazier	Kalispell, Mont.
Brice Heimark	Missoula, Mont.
Scott Patterson	Kalispell, Mont.
Ken Staley	Helena, Mont.

Monitoring Well Constructors

Mark Brooke	Helena, Mont.
Gerald Hauser	Helena, Mont.
Michael Labenski	Ft. Duchesne, Utah.
Ryan Lindsay	Clancy, Mont.
Bryon Long	Kalispell, Mont.
Steve Malkovich	Butte, Mont.
Scott Patterson	Kalispell, Mont.
Roger Perkins	Laurel, Mont.
Tom Schomel	Gillette, Wyo.
Robert Warren	Kalispell, Mont.
Nathan Young	Ft. Duchesne, Utah.

Thirty-five licensees did not renew their licenses during the last license year.□

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Persons with disabilities who need an alternative, accessible format of this document should contact: DNRC, 48 North Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620 -- Phone: 444-6603/Fax: 406-444-0533/TDD: 406-444-6873

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

Board of Water Well Contractors

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